

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 EB-11 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20

RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 OMB-01 L-03

SCEM-02 SCI-06 INT-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 NEA-10 DRC-01

IO-14 /142 W

----- 130963

P R 140951Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9010

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, TH, PRC

SUBJ: PRC AS SOURCE FOR OIL FOR THAILAND

REF: STATE 237677

1. MFA OFFICIAL LABELLED AS PREMATURE DECEMBER 13 BANGKOK POST STORY OF THAT DAY TO EFFECT RTG DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER CHARTCHAI PLANNED TO TRAVEL TO PEKING IN LATE JANUARY TO DISCUSS PURCHASE OF DIESEL OIL FROM PRC, AS WELL AS MOVES TO BROADEN RELATIONS BETWEEN BANGKOK AND PEKING. POST DECEMBER 14 REPORTED THAT CHARTCHAI WOULD VISIT PEKING DECEMBER 21-28. MFA OFFICIAL CONTACTED DEC 14 REFUSED TO CONFIRM DEC 21-28 DATE.

2. DIRECTOR GENERAL MFA INFORMATION DEPT PRACHA GUNA-KASEM TOLD EMBOFF DECEMBER 13 THAT IN EFFORT TO DIVERSIFY SOURCE OF SUPPLY FOR CRUDE AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS RTG HAD APPROACHED INDONESIA AND SAUDIA ARABIA AND HAD ALSO ASKED PRC UN REPRESENTATIVE TO CONFIRM REPORTS THAT HIS GOVERNMENT PREPARED TO

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SELL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS TO THAILAND. PRC REPLIED, THROUGH ITS

UN AMBASSADOR, THT IT WAS PREPARED TO SELL THAILAND 50,000 METRIC TONS (375,000BBLs) OF DIESEL IMMEDIATELY, AND QUOTED RTG A PRICE. (COMMENT: RTG IMPORTS APPROXIMATELY 4 MILLION BARRELS OF DIESEL PER YEAR. EMBOFF INFORMED BY OTHER RTG SOURCE THAT PRICE QUOTED WAS WELL ABOVE PRESENT FIXED PRICE FOR DIESEL IN THAILAND.)

3. PRACHA SAID RTG WAS IMPRESSED BY PROMPTNESS OF PRC REPLY AND ADDED THERE HAD ALSO BEEN QUICK AND AFFIRMATIVE REPLY ON EARLIER OCCASION TO REQUEST FOR SUPPORT OF RTG CANDIDACY FOR ECOSOC MEMBERSHIP. PRACHA SAID THIS ACTION WAS INTERPRETED BY MFA AS A PARTICULAR SIGN OF GOOD WILL, AND DESIRE TO BROADEN RELATIONS WITH THAILAND.

4. AS TO NEWS STORY THAT CHARTCHAI ALREADY COMMITTED TO VISIT PEKING, DIRECTOR GENERAL MFA INFORMATION DEPT FOUND IT PREMATURE. NO FIRM DATE FOR CHARTCHAI TRIP TO PEKING HAD BEEN SET BUT PRACHA STRESSED THAT THAILAND INTERESTED IN LONG TERM SUPPLY CONTRACT FOR PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, SAID SUCH A CONTRACT COULD ONLY BE DISCUSSED IN PEKING.

5. INFORMATION DIRECTOR GENERAL CONFIRMED REPORTS, WHICH HAVE BEEN APPEARING IN PRESS FOR SOME TIME, THAT PRC PARTICULARLY OFFENDED BY RTG REVOLUTIONARY PARTY ORDER 53 WHICH PROHIBITS TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. CHINA IS THE ONLY COUNTRY SO TREATED. NO COMMENT WAS MADE ON RECENT PRESS REPORTS THAT RTG PREPARED TO RESCIND ORDER 53.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
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